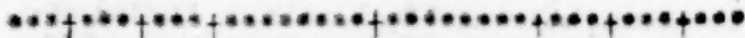


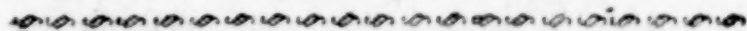
T H E

# Christian History;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival  
of Religion in *England Scotland and America.*



To be publish'd *Weekly.*



Saturday APRIL 9. 1743. N<sup>o</sup>. 6.



Mr. ROBE's Narrative continued.

I Observed that the far greater Part of every publick Audi-  
ence were secure, unconcerned and fearless; and therefore  
I preached the *Terrors* of the *Law* in the strongest Terms  
I could, that is to say, in *express Scripture-Terms*. I feared to  
daub or deal slightly with them; but told great and small  
that they were the *Children of the Devil* while they were in the  
State of Unbelief, and that if they continued so to the End, in  
our LORD's plain Terms, they would be *damn'd*: I resolv'd  
that I would cry aloud and not spare, and preach with that  
Seriousness and Fervour, as one that knew that my Hearers  
must either be prevail'd with, or be *damn'd*; and that they  
might discern I was in good earnest with them, and really meant  
as I spoke, and lest any should ascribe the *Effect* of these Ser-  
mons meerly unto the *Subject*; I observed to my Hearers fre-  
quently, that they had heard all these Truths preached to them  
oft with as great Keenness, without any such visible Effect. I  
can instance and shew Sermons I have preached many Years  
ago, containing the *Terrors* of the *Law* without known Success,  
and which I have preached now again, in weaker Terms, blest  
with great Success; so that all might see that it is *not* from  
*Man*, but the SPIRIT of the LORD, that there is so great a  
Difference as to Efficacy.

I looked up and saw what I never saw before, *the Fields*  
*already ripe unto Harvest.* I heard the LORD of the Harvest

commanding me to put in my Sickle and reap: I considered that I had now an Opportunity put in my Hand that was not to last long, the Harvest being the shortest Time of Labour in the whole Year. And therefore I resolved to bestir myself and attend wholly to this very Thing. I looked upon my *Pulpit-Work*, tho' great, but a small Part of my Task. I knew that several of the awakened were ignorant, that all of them needed particular Direction, Instruction, and Consolation, under their sharp Convictions; and wanted much, under the Conduct of the HOLY SPIRIT, a spiritual Guide to direct them to Faith in JESUS CHRIST, to which they were shut up. I appointed therefore, *Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays*, for the awakened and spiritually distressed to come to me for the 'fore-said Purposes: Which they did assiduously and diligently from Morning to Night. The same Persons sometimes coming to me not only twice which was ordinary; but oftener in a Week: Yea, even upon *Saturdays*, which I often grudging, but durst not send them away who had come at some Distance, without conversing with them. At this Time I could not allow myself to be diverted from this Attendance, by any Visitants coming to my House, *Ministers* or others. I was also greatly assisted by some *Ministers* and *Preachers* who stayed with me for some Time. Particularly at the Beginning of this Work Mr. Young Preacher of the Gospel, who had been much at *Cambuslang*, and had great Experience and Skill in dealing with the Distressed, was greatly helpful to me. But of all others the Rev. Mr. *Thomas Gillespie*, Minister of the Gospel at *Carnock*, was most remarkably God's sent to me. He came to me upon the Monday before the Lord's Supper was given in the Congregation, and stayed ten Days. Both of us had as much Work among the Distressed as kept us continually employed from Morning to Night; and without him, it would have been impossible for me to have managed the Work of that Week. Without such Dealings with them, humanly speaking, many of them must have miscarried, or continued much longer under their spiritual Distress. It is very true, GOD will devise Means to bring home his Banished, as I have seen. But where there are *Ministers*, these are the outward Means: If People in Distress will not use them, they themselves are to blame, and they cannot expect a desirable Out-gate; and if we will not apply ourselves diligently to the Care of distressed Souls willing to make Use of us, the LORD will provide without us, that his own Elect shall

not miscarry; but *We* will be to *us*. Their Blood, as well as those who shall miscarry, will be required at *our* Hands.

I was not without Temptations to slacken my Hand; both my own Mind, and others who wished me well, said, *Spare thyself*. I was afraid my Body would not stand through, and others told me I should take Care of my Health; but when I considered my natural Temper, that it must be employed some how, and that I spent near as much Time in *Reading*, I thought I could suffer no more by this Application, & had not so much to fear from it as from any other constant sedentary Employment. But most of all I was influenced from the Consideration of the LORD's *Call* to this Service; that my Time, Health and Life were in his Hand; that I had dedicated all to his Service and Glory; that he had promised needful Strength; that he would preserve my Health and Life so long as he had Use for them; and that it would be highly unreasonable for me to desire it longer; I resolved not to spare my self. *It became soon the pleasantest Work that ever I was engaged in*. I found the Distress'd profiting under the Means of Grace by the LORD's Blessing; first coming to hate Sin, and mourn for it out of a Regard to GOD, and pressing after an Interest in the LORD JESUS CHRIST. It diverted me to see *Young and Old* carrying their *Bibles* with them, and either reading some Passage that had been of Use to them, or looking out and marking some Passage I recommended to them. *The World appeared changed to me*; and as I noticed to them, when I came to their Doors to *catechise* them, *once or twice in the Year*, the least Trifle hindered their Attendance, but now they were glad to come *twice or thrice a Week*, and greedy to receive Instruction; and what cold Soul would not have rejoiced at such a Change, and welcomed them in the Name of the LORD. 'Tho' I was wearied when I went to Bed, yet like the labouring Man my Rest was sweet to me. The LORD gave me the Sleep of his Beloved, and I was fresh by the Morning. And now after labouring so much for near these *four Months*, and preaching more than at any Time for a whole *half Year*; I mention it to the Praise of my great Master's Goodness, my Body is like those of *Daniel* and the *three Children*, fatter in Flesh than when I began, and my bodily Ails no wise increased. The Way of the LORD hath been my Life and Strength.

I shall subjoin to this Branch a *Letter* I received from the Rev. Mr. *Willison*, Minister of the Gospel at *Dundee*, deserving the Reader's Perusal.

*Dundee.*

Dundee, June 14. 1742.

R. D. B.

“ **Y**Our's to me of the 27th of *May* last did fill me with  
 “ Wonder and Joy, and was most refreshing to many  
 “ of the Friends of **CHRIST**'s Kingdom to whom I shewed  
 “ it. O that we could praise him, and call Heaven & Earth  
 “ to praise him, for the **COMFORTER**'s Continuance at *Cambuslang*,  
 “ and for his coming so many Miles on this Side of  
 “ *Glasgow* in the same Way as to *Cambuslang*, as your Letter  
 “ bears: Blessed be his Name for visiting *so many Parishes at*  
 “ *once*, and *Kilsyth* in such a wonderful Manner; making  
 “ your Congregation to mourn together as for an only Son,  
 “ so as to find you Work daily from Morning to Night, in  
 “ dealing with Souls distressed with a Sense of Sin and Misery,  
 “ while without **CHRIST**. Blessed be his glorious Name for  
 “ doing such wonderful Things for you and your People, and  
 “ for giving you extraordinary Strength and Vigour both in  
 “ Body and Mind to fit you for extraordinary Service he is  
 “ calling you to, and *to make you delight in it as the most plea-*  
 “ *sant Work ever you was engaged in.* I desire to praise the  
 “ **LORD** for putting such high Honour upon you and your  
 “ Brethren in your Country; and also to pray as I can for a  
 “ more plentiful Effusion upon you, 'till it arrive to a Flood  
 “ which may overflow the whole Land. Surely we in this  
 “ Part of *Scotland* need it as much as any Place I know; Ah!  
 “ our Ground is very dry, but blessed be God, the Shower  
 “ seems to point *Northward*. We have a great Number of  
 “ *young People* in this Place who have changed their Way, are  
 “ in love with Sermons and join in Societies for Prayer, for  
 “ religious Conference, repeating Sermons, and Parts of the  
 “ Bible, and are growing much in Knowledge, &c. But  
 “ alas; their *Convictions* for Sin do not appear to be deep  
 “ enough, nor the Work on their Spirits to be so thorough as  
 “ I observed at *Cambuslang*. Yet I desire to wait and pray and  
 “ to be remembered by you and your People at the Mercy-  
 “ Seat; and also to be thankful for our Day of small Things.  
 “ Tho' our Beginnings be but small, yet by the divine Blessing,  
 “ our latter End may greatly increase, if we could but believe,  
 “ wrestle and pray in Hope. I would fain hope that these  
 “ are but *Droppings* before the Shower, which God is design-  
 “ ing for *Scotland*, and that the Time to favour his *Zion* in it is  
 “ near at Hand. *Elijah's little Cloud is spreading, and there*  
 “ “

" is the Sound of Abundance of Rain. Surely after what we  
 " have seen already, we need despair of nothing. If a Spirit of  
 " Faith and Prayer were poured out, we might hope the blef-  
 " sed Work would spread, and go through the breadth and  
 " length of the Land ; which would heal our woful Breaches,  
 " and make us glad according to the Days wherein he hath  
 " afflicted us, and the Years wherein we have seen Evil.  
 " Mr. ----- writes me a very distinct Account of the Progress  
 " of the Work about him, namely in the Barony, Bothwell, and  
 " of some hopeful Beginnings at *Kilmarnock* and *Irvine* ; and  
 " also promises to send me the Journal of that Person you speak  
 " of who hath got Relief by Faith in JESUS, as soon as printed  
 " in the *Weekly History*, for which I will be much obliged to  
 " him. I am persuaded the printing such Accounts will be most  
 " useful and edifying to many. I intreat you to urge Mr. -----  
 " to go on in publishing other Cases of that Sort. Some Ministers  
 " here are proposing to keep parochial Thanksgiving Days for  
 " the good News you and others are sending us. I am to assist  
 " at one in *Strickmartine*, Wednesday next, a neighbouring  
 " Parish ; surely it is a kindly Way of supplicating God for  
 " the like Blessings. I intreat you may pray for poor *Dundee*,  
 " and our parched Shire of *Angus*. May the LORD strengthen  
 " you more and more in his Service, and make you go on in it  
 " with great Joy and Success.

" I am, your B. and Servant in our Lord,

" I. WILLISON.

" P. S. Oblige me by writing frequent, and send the in-  
 " closed to Mr. -----

After Sermon, those who were awakened that Day, were  
 convened in my Barn. Sometimes they were spoke to all toge-  
 ther either by myself or some other Minister, if any happened  
 to be with us ; as also we prayed with them. This, as was  
 observed already, had frequently Effect upon the By-standers  
 by the Blessing of GOD ; some being awakened by seeing the  
 Distress'd and bearing the Exhortations given in the Barn. At  
 other Times when I could not attend upon this, & there were  
 no other Ministers ; some of the *Elders* were sent to pray and  
 sing *Psalms* with them.

They were then brought by the *Elders* unto me into my  
*Closet* one by one, and if there were many, two or three at a  
 Time. If they were able to give an Account of themselves, I  
 enquired when they came first to be so deeply concerned about  
 the



the State of their Souls? What was the *Occasion* of it? And what they had *heard* that made the first Impression upon them? After which I gave them some *general Exhortations*, and *Directions*, suitable to their particular Case appearing to me, as the LORD was pleased to help.

The *General Exhortations* and *Directions* I gave them; were, to be very *thankful* to GOD, & *blefs* him who had sent his HOLY SPIRIT to convince them of Sin, because they believed not upon CHRIST, and to make them sensible of their lost State, that they might be delivered: To entertain a *constant Fear* lest their Convictions and uneasy Sense of their Sin and Danger, should go off *without Conversion*, and *Coming* to CHRIST by *Faith*; seeing this had befallen many, who had been under greater and longer Distress than many of them yet were; And that if this happened to them, their Case would be worse, and more dangerous than it was before: And therefore they should take good Heed, that they resist not the *Convictions* of the SPIRIT, but listen to them, and admit them to take Possession of their Souls; that they need not be overwhelmed, for how great soever their Sins were, if they would *repent* and *believe* upon the LORD JESUS CHRIST, GOD promised to have Mercy upon them, and save them; and that they must not be too impatient for Comfort, nor too hasty to catch it; but that they must stay GOD's Leisure, and wait upon him patiently in a diligent Use of Means for a good Issue. I *prayed with them*, and so dismissed them; *without being more particular with them for the first Time*: Several of them, thro' the Greatness of their Anguish not being able even to attend to such short and general Directions. I recommended it to *Strangers* to *apply frequently* to their *own Ministers* for Instruction, and Direction under their spiritual Distress; hoping that there would be no Minister, who would not make them welcome, instruct and direct them to JESUS CHRIST where-ever they were awakened. I endeavour yet to persuade myself that the Jealousy some of the Distress'd entertain of a bad Reception is groundless: It were to be wished that *Ministers* who hear of any such in their Congregation, would *enquire after them*, *desire them to come to them from Time to Time*, and *hereby convince them that their Jealousies are groundless*, that they *compassionate their Case*, and are *ready to assist them*, under the *Pangs of the New-Birth*, that they may not miscarry. Nothing so tender as an afflicted Conscience; those who have it must be tenderly dealt and born with. Let us

all

all who are called to the holy Ministry often think upon, Ezek. xxxiv. 4.

As to the *Method* of my *After-dealing* with the Awakened as they came to me from Time to Time; this cannot be well narrated without giving an Account of the *Progress* of the *Work of Conviction* upon 'em; & therefore I shall refer it to *that Article*.

I have kept a *Book*, wherein from Day to Day I wrote down whatever was most material in the Exercises of the Distress'd. This may appear an unsupportable Labour at first View, especially where the Number of the Distress'd are so many. Yet I found it to be very easy; it saved much Time to me. An *Index* I kept, bro't me soon to the Part of the Book, where the Person's Case was recorded. I had then a full View of their Case, as it was when they were first with me. I saw what *Progress* their *Convictions* had made; and knew where I was to begin with them, without examining their Case every Time from the beginning anew, as I should have been oblig'd to do: Which would have taken three or four times more Time than I needed to spend with them: It after all gave a full View of their whole Case when it came to an Issue; and made me more able to judge of it.

I have laboured to be very cautious in pronouncing Persons to be brought out of a State of Nature into a State of Grace. I have in many Cases declared to Persons that the Grounds of Ease and Rest they took up with, were not solid nor good; which frequently had good Effect. And as to others, that if their Exercises were such as they declared them to be, that they were really the Scripture Qualifications and Experiences of the Converted. But of this more in another Article.

It made all this Labour more pleasant to me that the LORD, even from the first Week, bro't some every Week to satisfying Relief by Faith in the LORD JESUS. The first Appearance of this filled me with Tears of Joy. It was in a Girl about Twenty, the very first Week after the 16th of May.

*An Abstract of her Case is as follows.*

She formerly liv'd, for some Years, in this Parish, but at this Time, in the Neighbourhood. She was bro't under some Concern first at Cambuslang, by hearing Luk. xi. 21st. preach'd upon. She was afraid the LORD had pass'd her by, when she saw others under spiritual Distress. She wondered what *Convictions* were, when she heard them spoken of; and prayed for them. She was further awaken'd to see her Sin and Danger at Killyth upon the

the 16th of May. She return'd to me the *same Week*. I was greatly pleas'd with the *Progress* of her *Convictions*, with her Knowledge, and the longing Desires she express'd after JESUS CHRIST. I said to her sitting by me, essay to accept of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, bestir yourself, rise up at his Call, and invite him to enter into your Soul; without intending, or meaning what she did. She arose with great Composure, stood and pray'd in a Scripture Stile, & with such Connection, as no Person of a publick Character, needed to have been ashamed to have pray'd so before the nicest Audience. I could discern as much of the Spirit of Grace and Adoption in it as any Prayer I ever heard. I could not recover it afterwards; but resolv'd that I would desire her to pray the next Time she return'd. For I look'd upon her as having receiv'd the Spirit of Faith, tho' she continued disconsolate. *Next Week* she return'd; and I caus'd her to pray, after I had convers'd & pray'd with her. She did it in a Scripture Stile, with Connection, & great Earnestness; acknowledging Sin Original & Actual; her utter Want of Righteousness, and the Wonderfulness of GOD's Patience towards her; she pray'd for Mercy, to be drawn to JESUS CHRIST, and that she might be cloath'd with his white Raiment; that he would speak a Word in Season to her weary, heavy laden and burthen'd Soul; and that he would give her to come to him, who saith, *Come to me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you Rest*; that Satan might have no Interest in her; and that the LORD would do for her above all she could ask, think or crave; giving Glory to him who *liveth and reigneth for ever*. Sometimes in her Address she said, sweet JESUS. She first came to sensible Relief the *next Week*, in hearing a Sermon I preach'd from *John xvi. 10*. In her return Home by herself these Words were strongly impress'd upon her, "My Heart is fixed, O GOD, my Heart is fixed; I will sing & give Praise." She fell down upon her Knees, her Heart being fill'd with Joy in the LORD, and her Mouth with his Praise. She said that *May 16th*, when she was under her greatest Distress, the last Verses of the xl. of *Isai.* came to her Remembrance. *They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their Strength: They shall mount up with Wings as Eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk & not faint.* This gave her some Support and Encouragement to wait upon the LORD.

(To be continued.)

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